LIS 401 Sarah Erickson **A Look at Illustrators** September 29, 2009

Oliver Jeffers

**Biographical Information**

Oliver Jeffers, ARTIST, ILLUSTRATOR and DESIGNER was born in Port Hedland, Western Australia in 1977 and grew up in Northern Ireland

Graduated from the University of Ulster in Ireland with a degree in Visual Communication

In 1995 he was runner up in the Irish News amateur art competition, turning his focus away from pursuing his musical talent and focusing on painting

Oliver Jeffers has since travelled the world with exhibits in New York, Dublin, Washington DC, Sydney, Melbourne, London, Belfast, and Glengormley

**Prizes and Awards**

**~2004** **Booktrust Early Years Award (Best New Illustrator)**  (shortlist) *How To Catch A Star*

**~2005** **Bisto Prize (Ireland)**   (merit)   *How To Catch A Star*

**~2005** **Kate Greenaway Medal**   (shortlist)   *Lost and Found*

**~2005** **Nestlé Children's Book Prize (Gold Award)**   (5 years and under category)   *Lost and Found*

**~2006** **Blue Peter Book of the Year Award**   *Lost and Found*

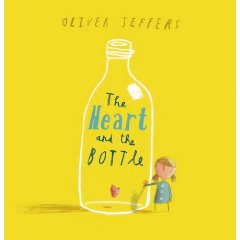
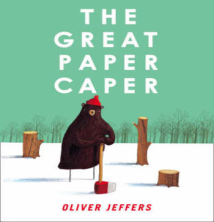
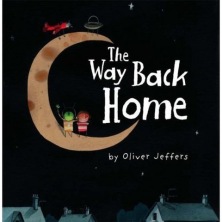
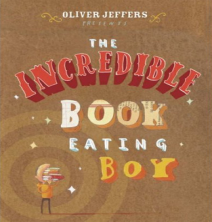
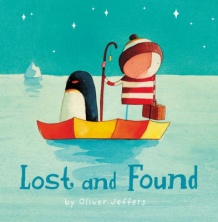
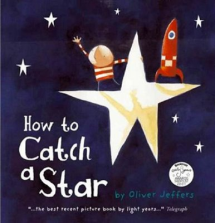
**~2006** **Booktrust Early Years Award (Pre-School Award)**   (shortlist)   *Lost and Found*

**~2007 British Book Awards Children's Book of the Year**   (shortlist)   *The Incredible Book Eating Boy*

~2008 **Dublin Airport Authority Irish Children's Book of the Year**   (shortlist)   *The Way Back Home*

~2008 **Roald Dahl Funny Prize**   (6 years and under category - shortlist) *The Great Paper Caper*

~2009 **BistoBook of the Year Award** (shortlist) *The Great Paper Caper* ~2009 **Kate Greenaway Medal** (shortlist)  *The Way Back Home*



2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2010

**Bibliography of Works**

**How to Catch a Star~** “inspired by a moment sitting on the end of a jetty in Sydney, looking at the stars”

**Lost and Found~** about a boy who finds a penguin on his doorstep and decides to help him find his way home...

**THE INCREDIBLE BOOK EATING BOY~** The more books Henry eats the smarter he gets, until everything he is learning begins to get mixed up...

**The Way Back Home~** “a mind’s eye view of one whopping lunar adventure in this beautiful tale of space travel, spunk and solidarity.”

**The Heart and the Bottle~** explores the themes of love and loss...

**Artistic Style**

Oliver Jeffer’s “style of illustration uses mixed medium and is recognized for its subtle narrative and use of space in composition.

Figurative painting and installation, illustration and picture book making

Described as“off-beat”, “eye-catching”, “breathtakingly beautiful”, “warm”, “magical”, “fresh and exciting”

Paints in a wide variety of styles, and sizes using many different types of media

“Divinely illustrated and wittily told, but perfectly realised."~ The Heart and the Bottle

Oliver Jeffers makes impressive use of space in this affecting story of friendship…illustrations capture feelings of loss and loneliness through the most delicate nuances of facial expression…and body language. ~ Julia Eccleshare, The Guardian

**Personal Response:** I am proud to have Oliver Jeffer’s books in my personal book collection. His books became instant favourites after I read *How to Catch a Star.* I was drawn to the beautiful pictures that accompanied the sweet and simple text that seemed to have been taken directly from a small child’s mind. I love the friends that the main characters make and the many adventures they have as the stories unfold. Every story is a treasure in itself and deals with many important ideas such as love, loss, friendship, happiness, imagination and creativity. Every page in each of his books is filled with beautiful, soft colors and shapes that are used to create the setting and characters. I look forward to watching this brilliant illustrator as his career continues to flourish!

**These are the website URL’s that I used to help me with this assignment**

~<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oliver_Jeffers>

~<http://www.harpercollins.co.uk/Our_Authors/Pages/Home.aspx?objId=2926>

~<http://hicksdesign.co.uk/journal/the-incredible-book-eating-boy>

~<http://blogcritics.org/books/article/book-review-the-incredible-book-eating/>

~<http://www.justonemorebook.com/2009/01/21/far-out-friendship-the-way-back-home/>

~http://www.contemporarywriters.com/authors/?p=auth519DFCC71dc321BBD4QyHq264E5A

~http://littleredreadingnook.blogspot.com/2009/09/famous-author-oliver-jeffers.html